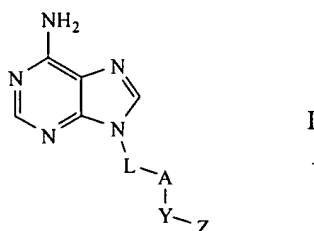


Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

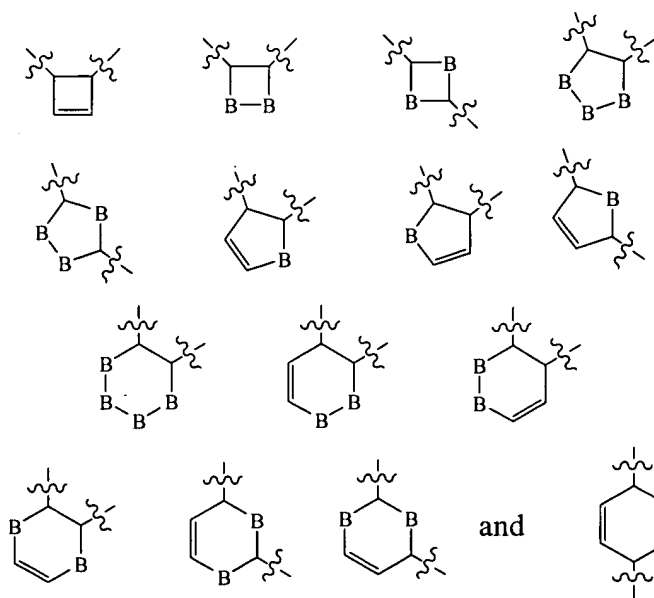
24. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula (I):



wherein:

A is a member selected from the group consisting of:

benzene, thiophene, furan, pyrrole, indole,



wherein

each B is independently selected from the group consisting of $-C(-R^1)(-R^2)-$, $-O-$ and $-N(-J-R^3)-$, wherein not more than one B in any ring is either $-O-$ or $-N(-J-R^3)-$;

each m [[and n]] is independently an integer from 0 to 4;

each n is independently an integer from 1 to 4;

each q is independently an integer from 0 to 8;

Y is a member selected from the group consisting of $-(\text{CH}_2)_q-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_m\text{O}-$ and $-(\text{CH}_2)_m\text{N}(-\text{J}^1-)-\text{R}^4$;

Z is a member selected from the group consisting of $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{NHOH}$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOH}$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOMe}$ and $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOEt}$;

L is a member selected from the group consisting of $-(\text{CH}_2)_q-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_m\text{O}-$ and $-(\text{CH}_2)_m\text{N}(-\text{J}^2-)-\text{R}^5$;

J, J^1 and J^2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of $\text{C}(=\text{O})$ and a bond;

R^1 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, $-\text{N}(-\text{J}^3-\text{R}^6)(-\text{J}^4-\text{R}^7)$ and $-\text{O}-\text{J}^5-\text{R}^8$, wherein J^3 , J^4 and J^5 are each independently selected from the group consisting of $-\text{C}(=\text{O})-$ and a bond, wherein at least one of J^3 and J^4 is a bond;

R^2 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, $-\text{N}(-\text{J}^6-\text{R}^9)(-\text{J}^7-\text{R}^{10})$ and $-\text{O}-\text{J}^8-\text{R}^{11}$, wherein J^6 , J^7 and J^8 are independently selected from the group consisting of $-\text{C}(=\text{O})-$ and a bond, wherein at least one of J^6 and J^7 is a bond;

R^3 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$ alkyl, CF_3 and $\text{O}-\text{R}^{12}$;

R^4 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$ alkyl, CF_3 and $\text{O}-\text{R}^{13}$;

R^5 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$ alkyl, CF_3 and $\text{O}-\text{R}^{14}$;

R^6 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$ alkyl, CF_3 and $\text{O}-\text{R}^{15}$;

R^7 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, C₁-C₈ alkyl, CF₃ and O-R¹⁶;

R^8 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, C₁-C₈ alkyl, CF₃ and O-R¹⁷;

R^9 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, C₁-C₈ alkyl, CF₃ and O-R¹⁸;

R^{10} is a member selected from the group consisting of H, C₁-C₈ alkyl, CF₃ and O-R¹⁹;

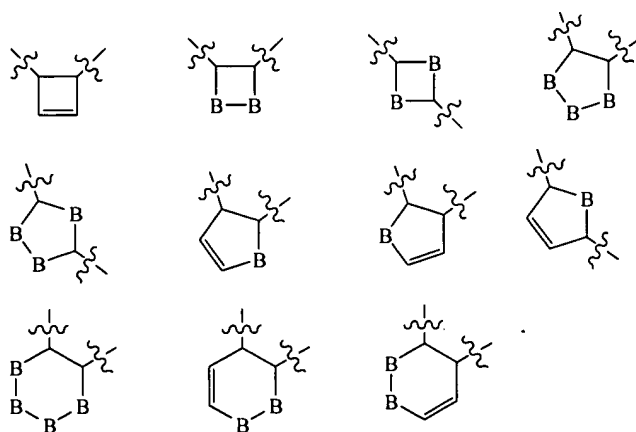
R^{11} is a member selected from the group consisting of H, C₁-C₈ alkyl, CF₃ and O-R²⁰;

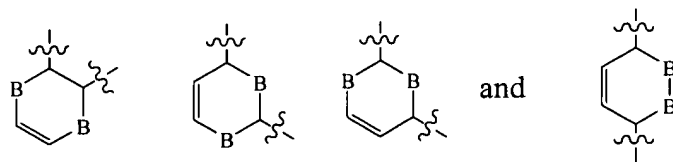
R^{12} , R^{13} , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{17} , R^{18} , R^{19} and R^{20} are each independently selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₄ alkyl, cycloalkyl and benzyl;

and all pharmaceutically acceptable stereoisomers, salts, and prodrugs thereof.

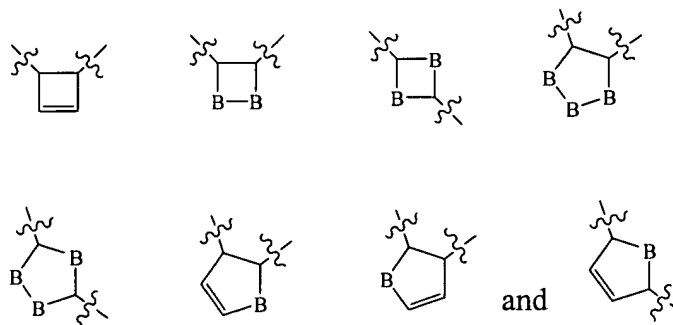
25. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 24

wherein A is a member selected from the group consisting of:



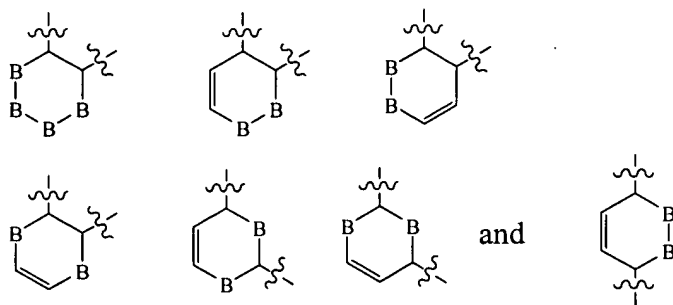


26. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim **24**
wherein A is a member selected from the group consisting of:



Y is a member selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2)_q-$ and $-(CH_2)_mO-$;
L is a member selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2)_q-$ and $-(CH_2)_mO-$; and
 R^1 is a member selected from the group consisting of H and $-O-J^5-R^8$; and
 R^2 is a member selected from the group consisting of H and $-O-J^8-R^{11}$;
and all pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

27. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim **24**,
wherein A is a member selected from the group consisting of:

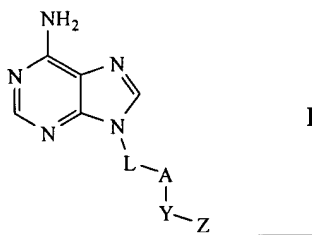


Y is a member selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2)_q-$ and $-(CH_2)_mO-$;

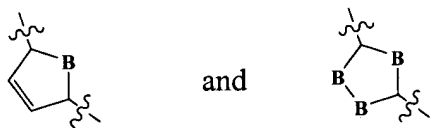
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L is a member selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2)_q-$ and $-(CH_2)_mO-$; and
 R^1 is a member selected from the group consisting of H and $-O-J^5-R^8$; and
 R^2 is a member selected from the group consisting of H and $-O-J^8-R^{11}$;
and all pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

28. (Currently amended) A compound of the formula (I):



~~The compound according to claim 24~~ wherein A is a member selected from the group consisting of:



wherein

each B is CH_2 ;
Y is a member selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2)_q-$ and $-(CH_2)_mO-$;
Z is $-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-NHOH$;
L is $-(CH_2)_q-$;
each m and n is independently an integer from 0 to 4; and
each q is independently an integer from 0 to 8;
and all pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

29. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 24, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

30. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 25, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

31. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 26, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

32. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 27, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

33. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 28, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

34-41. (Canceled)

42. (Previously Presented) A method of treating congestive heart failure comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 29 to a patient in need thereof.

43. (Previously Presented) A method of treating congestive heart failure comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 30 to a patient in need thereof.

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44. (Previously Presented) A method of treating congestive heart failure comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 31 to a patient in need thereof.

45. (Previously Presented) A method of treating congestive heart failure comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 32 to a patient in need thereof.

46. (Previously Presented) A method of treating congestive heart failure comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 33 to a patient in need thereof.